



## LOOSE CANNON

### A foreign threat?

On March 8, the *Sydney Morning Herald* plastered a story across page one reporting fears by MPs that they may be sitting in parliament illegally. Sydney lawyer, Mr George Turner, threatened to test in the High Court a little-known provision of the Constitution which appears to bar anyone with dual citizenship from sitting in parliament.

At least nine have formally renounced their dual citizenship including Peter Baldwin, David Bedall, Carolyn Jakobsen, Lewis Kent and Chris Puplick. Quite an achievement, but who is George Turner?

According to the *SMH*, he is a councillor on Sydney's Strathfield Council. He also led a Senate team in the March election under the banner 'Independent EFF' - the EFF standing for Enterprise, Freedom and Family. But Loose Cannon has done some digging.

George V Turner, a member of the lunar right, heads a whacky crew called the Anti-Treason Co-ordinate, which leads the fight against Fabians, fluoridation, marxists, satanists and supporters of world government. It warns of world dictatorship based on subversion by "virus invasion of the population"; and has published several booklets, among them *Conspiracy Behind World Change and AIDS* and the *World Government Plot*.

An impassioned plea in 1989 by the Anti-Treason Co-ordinate, signed by Turner, denounced the "cover up" of the illegally sitting MPs who owe allegiance to foreign powers.

It asked: "Why are all political parties and the news media united in this dangerous conspiracy to mislead the people of Australia? Why are we subjected to foreign-made laws?"

"Selling eggs outside the Egg Board is severely punished. National betrayal is a greater crime than murder.

"Does the law now apply only to the people and not the government? This is just a little of the story of treachery and deceit being practised today."

Just before the *SMH* story, George Turner addressed a rather peculiar meeting at the Estonian Club in Sydney's Surry Hills.

The meeting was one of a series called by the Conservative Speakers Club whose literature notes that it is "an educational division of the Australian League of Rights".

### Berry bails out

The union movement has lost an articulate and thoughtful official, Peter Berry, secretary of the ACT branch of the Building Workers Industrial Union. Many predicted a great future for the 37-year old. But an interview in the *Bulletin* last September would not have endeared him to some trade union officials.

His main message was far removed from the optimistic rhetoric which union leaders are wont to disperse to their members. Unions faced a declining future, he argued, because of changes in the composition of the workforce due to technology. They had to deliver far better services to members and "market" themselves to women and young people using modern techniques.

He also said: "It is at the union office level where the ignorance and apathy is greatest - where people don't want to understand. They are still living in the 'fifties when craft

unionism covered 59% of the workforce."

And on opposition to amalgamation: "If we were to go from 300 to 20 unions overnight, there would be 280 union secretaries who would have to surrender the Amex card and the keys to the Commodore."

### Back to the 'fifties

The pre-election issue of the Clerks Union magazine *The Clerk* put some noses badly out of joint in the upper reaches of the ALP and union movement, according to Loose Cannon's sources.

In a rambling and almost incoherent editorial, FCU national president John Maynes got stuck into Medicare and the health system generally.

What Maynes describes as "the so-called health scheme" is, he says, "a scandal", with waste and inefficiency in government expenditure where the public come last".

Maynes' analysis of the Hawke government is truly sophisticated: "it suffers because of a lack of real opposition and the dominance of the Left in its ranks." Other articles had veiled attacks on the Labor government's tax and family policies. Just the thing when Labor faced its most difficult election since 1983.

Elsewhere, the pre-election issue of *The Clerk* has the smell of the 'fifties: Laurie Short (I thought he was in the FIA?) inveighs against "the hard Left", and an anonymous article recalls the glory days when Maynes and the boys kicked out the Commies in the clerks in 1952. Another article on Hawke's attack on the Left was so good they used it twice.

Trouble is, even *The Clerk* lets slip what a lousy union the FCU is. In an article on the 3% super payment it admits: "Some unionists are only now receiving award rights to super when others received the same benefits in 1987."

But then the FCU has for decades doubled as a sheltered workshop for incompetent and conservative union officials.